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REPORTS CRISIS IN CENTRAL
AND SOUTH CHINA LAND REFORM

An editorial in the Hankow Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, of 14 October 1951, indicates a crisis in the land-reform program of Central and South China and urges that large forces of outside cadres be brought into the work. A report on land reform in Kwangtung by Vice-Chairman Ku Ta-t'sun of that province indicates great difficulties in that province. A report that the National Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference, highest organ of the government of the People's Republic of China, has organized several corps of cadres from central government agencies and various circles in Peiping and Tientsin municipalities to engage in land reform in Hunan and Kwangtung, and another report that the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee is stripping its staff to skeleton proportions and has directed the provincial governments in the region to do the same in order to free cadre forces for land-reform field activities, indicate that the Central People's Government and the regional government are alert to the crisis.

University students and professors in Central and South China are also being diverted from study into the program in large numbers.

A report on land reform in Kwangsi states that the operation is to be basically finished in 1952. In Hupeh, land reform has been completed among about 45 percent of the population.

From Fukien Province in East China comes a report that land reform in that province will be completed by the end of 1951. Second through fourth year students and teachers of seven East China Universities have been ordered to the rural areas for land reform activities during October - December 1951.

Ma Ming-fan, chairman of the Shensi Provincial Government, reporting on successes in land-reform operations in the Kuan-chung

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area (the breadbasket area of the province) states that 3,356,000 mou (one mou equals 1/6 acre) of land have been distributed to 460,000 families. He adds that more than a million items of movable property and 3.9 million liters of grain and 630,000 silver yuan have also been distributed.

Figures in parentheses refer to appended characters.

STRESSES CRISIS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH CHINA LAND REFORM -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 14 Oct 51

An editorial in the Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao of 14 October 1951 says that there is a real crisis facing the land-reform program in the Central and South China Region and urges a general nation-wide mobilization of fresh cadres be undertaken to save the situation.

The article points out that:

1. In the area in which land reform was undertaken in the winter and spring of 1950 - 1951, affecting 68 million people, there is great need of a reinvestigation to stabilize the situation. The disposed landlords are striving hard to make a comeback and to upset the new economy. The peasants greatly lack political awareness, their local administrations are unsteady, and stabilization of the people's dictatorship is imperiled.
2. The middle-class farmers are also presenting many difficult problems.
3. The economic problems of the poor and hired farmers are largely unsolved and production dangerously retarded.
4. Rural cadres are either self-satisfied or tired and desire a rest. They will be unable, without fresh reinforcements and political and moral rearmament, to lead the peasants in holding, solidifying, and expanding the gains already made.
5. The continuation of the land-reform program during the winter and spring 1951 - 1952 among 50 million more people who are clamoring for it, will have to be carried out simultaneously with the recheck on the area already covered and this will require many fresh cadres.
6. Signs that the authorities are awake to this crisis include the following:
 - a. The National Committee of the People's Political Consultative Council (PPCC) has mobilized over 2,000 cadres from many central government agencies in Peiping as well as all classes among the citizens of Peiping and Tientsin. Several hundred of these have already passed through Hankow on their way to Hunan and Kwangtung (Two spots of greatest landlord resistance to land reform).
 - b. The Military and Administrative Committee of Central and South China is sending all the cadres in all its branches that can possibly be spared and has instructed the provincial governments in the region to do likewise.
 - c. Chairman Mao has recognized, especially in his closing speech at the second session of the conference of the National Committee of the PPCC; that the success or failure of land reform is the key to the success or failure of the complete socialization of Chinese society.

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7. No past revolution in China has succeeded without the cooperation of the peasants, nor will the present one succeed unless the peasants can be fully enlisted with industrial workers.

The editorial concludes that the present is the critical moment for the revolution, that it is a great opportunity, and the last, for patriots from all classes, occupations, and parties to clarify their revolutionary thinking, to revive their revolutionary experience and to establish a solid front with the peasants by volunteering for land-reform cadre service in Central and South China during the winter and spring of 1951 - 1952. Lack of experience should not be given as an excuse for seeking to escape this responsibility. Once on the ground, the task will be quickly learned and can be successfully accomplished.

KWANGTUNG LAND REFORM DIFFICULT -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 19 Sep 51

Kwangtung Vice-Chairman Ku Ta-t'sun reported to the second All-Circles Delegates Conference of Kwangtung Province that terrific struggles had been necessary to achieve the results so far attained in land reform in Kwangtung. Three general conferences of land-reform cadres were called by August to work out problems. It was necessary to revise the program and decide on a three-stage progression running into 1953 and to call upon the military to enter the program in an active manner to aid in overcoming the many obstacles presented by the high degree of landlord resistance.

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Ten months of effort resulted in land distribution in an area inhabited by some 6 million people, and in the opening of the first stage of land reform among another 10 million people. Some 7 million people have been enlisted in the struggle and some 2 million agriculturists have been organized in peasants associations. Some 6 million catties of grain were recovered in rent refunds which greatly aided in aiding the peasants during the spring shortage.

A great number of cadres and positivists have been trained who are rapidly succeeding in raising the level of political consciousness and spirit of struggle among the masses. Large numbers of KMT agents and underground forces have been scattered and over 100,000 illegal weapons seized.

The efforts of land-reform cadres have revealed that 1950 preparations for land reform were far short of adequate. They have also revealed that the power of the landlords, bulwarked by the feudalistic system, is very deeply entrenched among the masses. The landlords have proved viciously antagonistic and diabolically cunning and inventive in their resistance to revolutionary ideas. They are expert at boring from within, securing local power, and creating all sorts of diversionary disorders.

Notwithstanding what has been accomplished, it is evident that the majority of the masses are still far from ready for the completion of the land reform program throughout the province.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF PPCC ORGANIZES 4 LAND-REFORM WORK CORPS -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 14 Oct 51

Over 700 persons organized into four corps under the auspices of the National Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference have passed through Hankow on their way to take part in the land-reform program in Hunan and Kwangtung provinces.

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The members of the first and second corps are working cadres chosen from a score or more of government agencies belonging to the various ministries of the Central People's Government. Such men as Li Yung (1), railway labor hero, Yeh Tu-1 (2), deputy chief of Secretariat of the Committee of Political and Legal Affairs, Hsu Sung-ming (3), chief of the Education Office of the Ministry of Public Health, and P'eng Chao-yuan (4) a teacher in the Hua-ta Labor Institute are leading out in these corps. They will work in Kwangtung.

The third corps is made up of more than 250 cadres from Peiping. They include persons from various democratic political parties, university professors, middle and primary school teachers, representatives of Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Moslem religious circles, medical workers, housewives, ward representatives, engineers, bank managers, shop workers, and other representatives of industrial and commercial circles. They are under the leadership of Tsao Pen-hsi (5), professor in Ch'ing-hua University, and Lo Ch'eng-fu (6), professor in the Peiping Agricultural College.

The fourth corps is made up of representatives of all classes in Tientsin under the leadership of Wang Lao-wu (7), vice-chairman of the Tientsin Central Labor Union.

The two latter corps will work in Hunan. While in Hankow the various corps members were briefed on Central and South China regional conditions.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO SEND CADRES -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 14 Oct 51

Cadres from all the government agencies directly under the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee will engage in land-reform work in rural areas in relays. The first contingent of 2,000 is reported to be preparing to leave for the country about 20 October 1951. The relays will be sent out for 6 months, 3 months, or one month according to the requirements of their official duties.

The Military and Administrative Committee explains the move as an opportunity for cadres to get experience in close contact with the masses that will give them better appreciation of the needs of the people. The move will also aid in completing the land-reform program during the spring of 1952.

The chief of the Agriculture and Forestry Department and the vice-chief of the Department of Trade have volunteered to enter the field program. The Department of Industry has decided that all its cadres except a small skeleton staff may enter the program.

The program is on a voluntary basis, and with the exception of a few faint-hearted persons afraid of the hardships of country life and content to enjoy the comforts of their office, everybody on all levels of service from department heads down have been enthusiastically enrolling for the venture.

STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS JOIN LAND-REFORM CAMPAIGN -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 14 Oct 50

More than 1,600 students and teachers of Wuhan and Hua-chung Universities are organizing into corps and taking courses in preparation for entering the winter and spring land-reform campaign in the neighboring areas.

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REPORTS ON LAND REFORM IN KWANGSI -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 1 Oct 51

Since the initiation of land reform in Kwangsi, 2,400,000 mou of land, in an area affecting 4,677 villages and 3,720,000 people, has been confiscated and redistributed. The average distribution was 1.3 mou per person. The preliminary steps of securing rent and rent-deposit refunds have been carried out in 1,000 villages affecting 9 million persons; 280 million catties of grain were recovered and this amounted to about 50 catties per person.

It is planned to basically complete land reform in the province by the time of the summer harvest and completely finish it before the end of 1952.

SUMMARIZES HUPEH LAND-REFORM RESULTS -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 1 Oct 51

During 1951, land reform has been completed in 5,500 hsiang of Hupeh affecting a population of 11,100,000, that is, about 45 percent of the total population of the province. Incomplete data indicate that the people received 5,500,000 mou of land, 50,000 work cattle, and 850,000 room units of housing. Land distribution was on a basis of 2 mou per capita. More than 800 million catties of grain have been distributed among the peasants. Some 3,600,000 persons have enrolled in the peasants associations and 1,800,000 in the women's associations.

FUKIEN LAND-REFORM PROGRAM ADVANCING -- Foochow, Fukien Jih-pao, 1 Oct 51

During less than a year of land-reform activity in Fukien the land has been redistributed in 3,942 hsiang. Hired farmers' land holdings have been increased from 0.11 mou to 2.1 mou, poor farmers' from 0.48 to 1.69 mou, and middle-class farmers' from 1.2 mou to 1.73 mou per capita. Present plans call for completion of the land-reform program throughout the province by the end of 1951. Over 2,300,000 peasants have already joined the peasants associations.

EAST CHINA STUDENTS TO AID LAND-REFORM ACTIVITIES -- Shanghai, Ta Kung Pao, 25 Sep 51

Sophomore, junior, and senior students of Fu-tan, Chekiang, Ginling, Nanking, Anhwei, Foochow and Amoy government universities and their instructors have been ordered by the Department of Education of the East China Region to engage in land-reform activities in their respective provinces during October - December 1951. The school work dropped during this period will be made up during the winter and summer vacations. The purpose of this program is stated to aid in land distribution and to improve integration of the students' theoretical and experimental knowledge of land-reform activities.

GOVERNOR REPORTS ON SHENSI LAND REFORM -- Sian, Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, 22 Sep 51

Ma Ming-fan, chairman of the Shensi Provincial Government reporting to the second session of the Shensi People's Government Committee on land reform in the Kuan-chung area of Shensi stated that the job was basically finished there in 7 months. He gave the following data:

No of families receiving land	460,000
No of people receiving land	2,020,000
Amount of land distributed in mou (12% of total cultivated area)	3,356,000

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Percentage of agriculturists receiving land	80
Percentage of hired farmers receiving land	82
Percentage of poor farmers receiving land	41
Percentage of middle-class farmers receiving land	7.1
Percentage of cultivated land occupied by poor and hired farmers (44.2 percent of population) after land reform	34.6
Average per capita land holding after land reform (in mou)	3
Buildings and movable property distributed	
Room units	240,000
Work animals	42,500
Implements	167,000
Furniture (no of items)	1,300,000
Grain distributed (in shih shih) $\sqrt{1}$ shih shih equals 100 liters	39,000
Amount of cotton (in shih chin) $\sqrt{1}$ shih chin equals 1.1 lbs	136,000
Value in grain of feudal debts cancelled (in shih shih)	1,220,000
Amount of silver yuan distributed	630,000
No of families benefitting by distribution of movable goods (3,260,000 persons)	700,000
No of rifles confiscated	13,468
Peasants' Association membership (including 794,000 women)	2,060,000
Percentage of population in associations	29
No of militia members (5.3% of population)	375,600
No of positivists discovered	100,000
No of new agricultural cadres	90,000
No of experienced cadres	273,000

Shortcomings manifested in the program included faulty classification and violence resulting in the death of a considerable number of landlords.

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5. 曹本喜
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